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I myself have struggled with substance use disorder since I was 14 years old. I am 36 years old now and I am 1 year 3 months into Recovery. I lost my fiance and father to my daughters to an acute fentanyl poisoning 4 and a half years ago.

I am now about to marry a man that has Also suffered from alcoholism since 15 years old. I watched him 1 year ago at his worst. His body failing and nowhere to turn. He had lost his job so he had mainecare and trying to find him a place to safely detox from alcohol was next to impossible. He suffered because there was nowhere for him to turn in the state of maine. He ended up going to jail for 2 months because he had accumulated so many violations surrounding alcohol but could never find help. While incarcerated oxford county jail failed him. No way to receive treatment for his substance use disorder. He says his life was put on pause and no way to prepare for release and have a safety network other than our options liason Glenn Gordon and some 12 step meetings.

He ultimately relapsed and had to go out of state to get the treatment he needed under a grant. By the Grace of God he is still sober today. But he and many others could have gotten sober so much faster if we had the facilities we need here in maine.

My daughter's are part of a large group of young children in maine that have lost a parent to substance use disorder. Why isn't our state fighting for these people. We are losing parents left and right daily and the numbers are getting higher.

We need beds in our state.

NH has 300 beds available for patients with state insurance to receive substance use disorder treatment and they don't have to say they're suicidal like you do here in maine to get treatment at st. Mary's for detox.

We need help and this bill will provide us hope